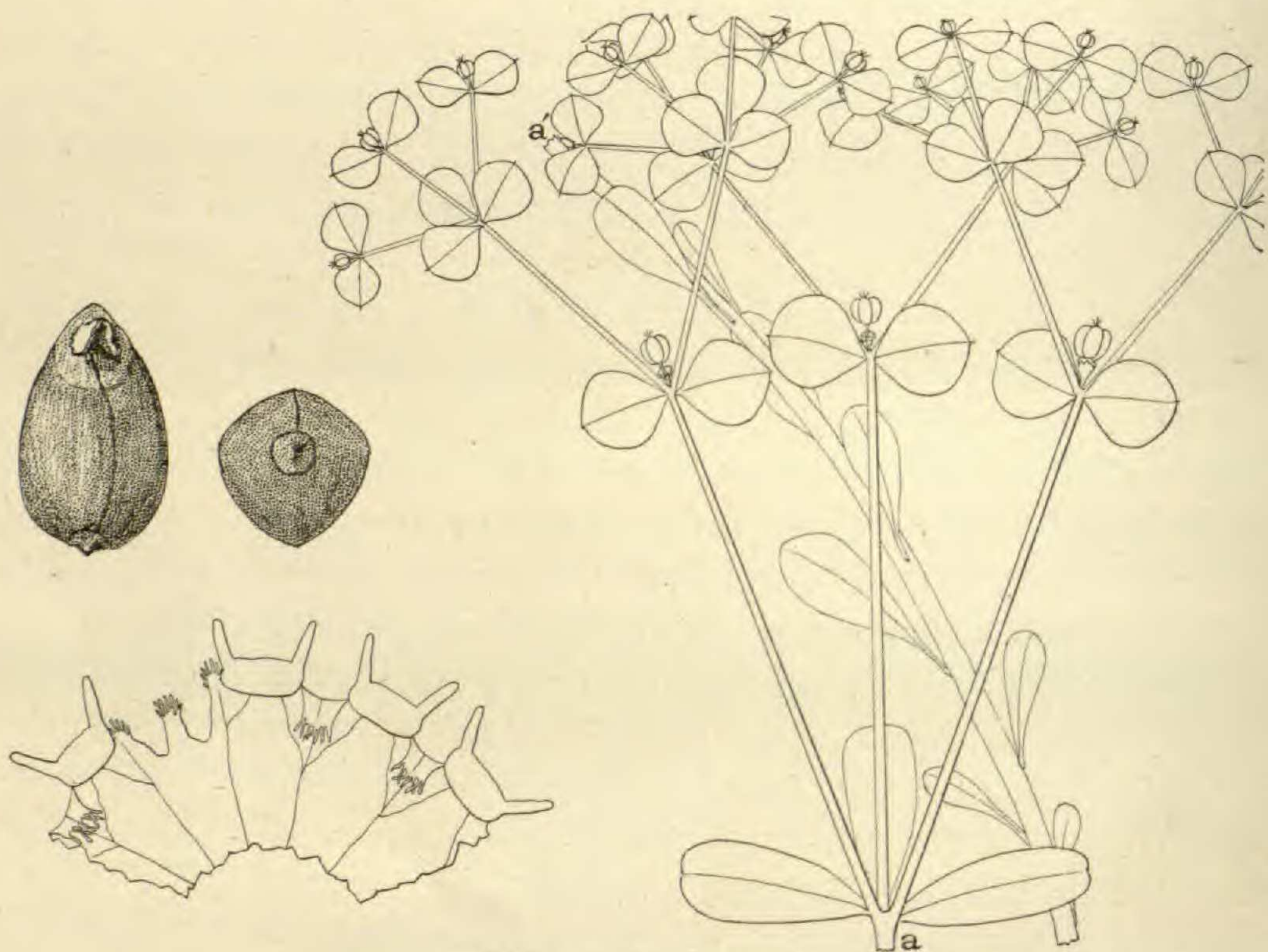


Preslii-nutans, the types of which have never been studied closely by any American. *E. hirsuta* Kit. ex Boiss. in DC. Prod. 15²: -116; and *E. hirsuta* Schur., Verh. Sieb. Ver. Nat. 4:66 are plants of a section far removed from Dr. Torrey's *E. hypericifolia* var. *hirsuta* which,



EUPHORBIA HELLERII.

for the present, at least, it is better to let alone. Professor Greene noting this synonymizing of Mr. Wiegand (Pitt. 3:207) adds one more name for good measure, *E. Rafinesquii*, and all because the good Linné did not mention the fact that his type of *E. hypericifolia* was hairy!

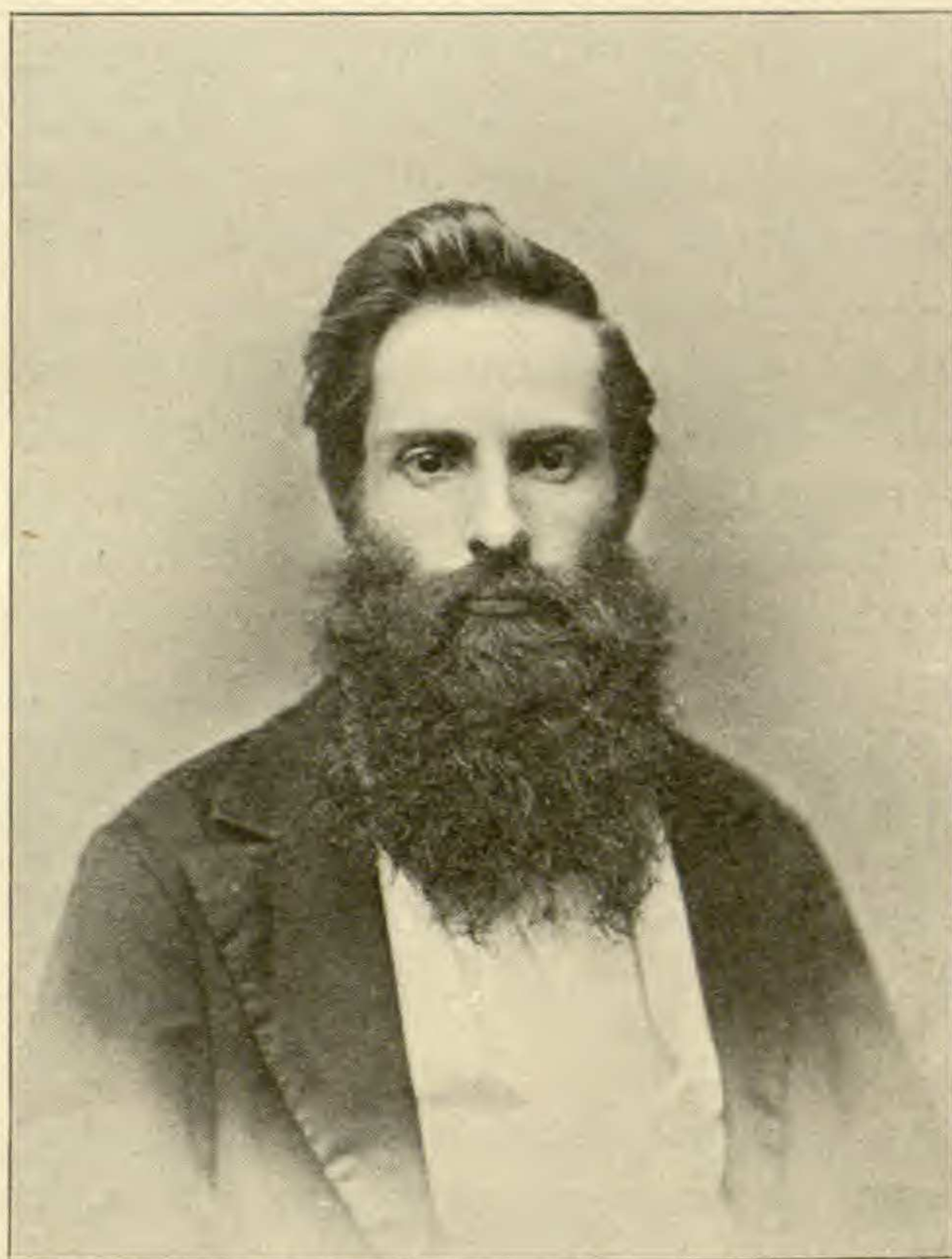
EUPHORBIA BRASILIENSIS Lam.—In making up his Durango sets for distribution, Dr. Edward Palmer mixes this species with his *E. Preslii* Guss.? under no. 894. The black seeded specimens are *E. Preslii*, the cinereous ones *E. Brasiliensis*.—CHARLES F. MILLSPAUGH, *Field Columbian Museum, Chicago*.

JOSEPH F. JOOR.¹

THE south has always been a land of peculiar botanical interest. Its vegetation, bordering on the tropical, many years ago attracted the

¹While working with Dr. Joor's plants, purchased by the Missouri Botanical

attention of the pioneers of American botany. Since those times, except for the work of a few, the south has been much neglected. Scientific and other educational work was broken into by the war, and since then there has been little to excite botanical activity, except



Joseph F. Joor.

natural love for the work, and the inspiration of the rich flora. It was in this land, and under these conditions, that the subject of this sketch spent his active, but unassuming life as a botanist and collector.

Joseph F. Joor was born on the Comite river in East Baton Rouge parish, Louisiana, on August 9, 1848. His parents removed to Illinois when he was quite young, where, as a boy, his botanical tastes were

Garden, I collected all the notes regarding him and his work that could be found with the specimens. Thinking it would be of some value, I have since completed this sketch of his life by the aid of Mrs. Joor and a number of botanists and other scientific men who knew him. To these I am indebted for the facts presented.

developed. Each holiday and Saturday when free from school duties he might be found engaged in his favorite study, wandering over the Illinois prairies. His Latin teacher, one of that honored class of botanist physicians to whom we owe most of the early botanical work of this country, assisted him much in his botanical recreations.

In 1865 his parents returned to Baton Rouge, where he continued his studies under the tutorship of Professor McGruder, but soon afterward left school to enter a drug store in Baton Rouge, where he began to read medicine, and soon surprised his preceptor, Dr. Day, by the rapidity with which he acquired knowledge.

He was soon a resident student in the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, and in the New Orleans School of Medicine, graduating in 1870, when he was only a little over twenty-one years old, and receiving an offer of an assistant professorship in his alma mater. Dr. Joor's duties were to begin the following autumn, but the disastrous end of a law suit, which closely concerned the college, resulted in closing its doors forever. Through these years of hard study the young physician by no means lost his interest in botany, but kept adding collections from the southern flora to those made in Illinois.

In October 1870, Dr. Joor obtained the position of Assistant Quarantine Surgeon at Ship Island Station. Here and at other places along the Gulf coast the rich flora so attracted him that he sometimes even endangered his life to obtain desirable plants. His health, broken down by study, was much restored by this outdoor life, and he soon entered into private practice in Thibodeaux, Louisiana.

In 1873 we find our physician-botanist practicing his profession on the Texas prairies in the midst of the rich flora of eastern Texas, first at Harrisburg and then at Birdston. Here, when Nealley was collecting grasses in Texas, they met and were together at every opportunity in their work. But the life of a practicing physician on the plains was too much for his naturally weak constitution, and for years he was hindered by severe illness from carrying on his work.

In preparation for the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition at New Orleans in 1884-5, Dr. Joor was appointed Assistant Commissioner for Texas to prepare an exhibit of woods and other plants from that state. At the close of the Exposition, where he had charge of the collection he had made, Dr. Joor prepared the woods for a permanent exhibit at the state capital, where they now are. At the same time a smaller collection was made for the Geo-

logical and Scientific Association at Houston, of which he was a member. In the preparation of the New Orleans exhibit he traveled much in Texas and Louisiana, adding at the same time to his private collections and much improving his health. At the Exposition he met a number of botanists whom he had known before only by correspondence, and was especially delighted to meet Dr. Vasey, who went in search of him. They both had a common interest in the southern grasses then, and the inspiration of this meeting renewed Dr. Joor's activity in that direction. It is said that at this time he probably had a better field knowledge of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, than anyone else.

The next year Dr. Joor was appointed Commissioner of Forestry in his native state, but soon accepted a position in Tulane University at New Orleans, and in October 1888, assumed charge of the Museum there as Assistant Curator. He spent much time arranging and enlarging the neglected herbarium of the institution, which already contained the collections of Hale, Riddeff, and Carpenter. Dr. Joor increased it much by exchanges and additions from his own herbarium.

Three months later he was elected Professor of Botany. As there were no classes he never taught in the University, but is said to have taught some botanical classes in the New Orleans high school. He held the position at Tulane until death ended his labors, July 25, 1892, at the age of forty-four.

Though Dr. Joor was naturally retiring, he inspired in those who knew him that regard for himself and his favorite study which the true student of nature always does. He was a close observer and an intensely enthusiastic collector, but had no means of describing the new things he discovered.

Very little from his pen has ever been published. A single paper, "Forests and Climate," in "Papers read before the New Orleans Academy of Science," 1: 72-80, 1887, is the only one I have seen. He is said to have published an article in the *Medical Record* concerning a supposed medicinal tree in Louisiana with which he had experimented; and also one in the *Texas Farm and Ranch* discussing a plant being sold in Texas as the tea plant. Reports of his work in connection with the Exposition were prepared, but I cannot find that they were ever published. He long contemplated publishing a flora of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, the lists of plants having been

prepared in manuscript, but his enthusiasm was far greater than his strength and resources. With very few facilities for successful botanical work, and a weak physical constitution, he was compelled in discouragement to give up this large undertaking.

Dr. Joor's herbarium, which is the main record of his work, is not large, but is rich in specimens from the region where his life was spent. It is especially valuable because from that part of the south not well known to botanists, and covered by none of our manuals. A part of his collections, as before stated, were incorporated into the herbarium of Tulane University when he was connected with it. The rest were purchased from Mrs. Joor in 1897 by the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Most of the collections were made about New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Galveston bay, and other parts of Harris county, Texas, where he lived, and in Navarro and adjoining counties when he lived at Birdston, with occasional excursions into other parts of the south. In the last year of his life he spent several weeks along the Mississippi gulf coast, making large collections and preparing a list of the plants of that region. His herbarium was also enriched by the collections of botanical friends and others in whom his own devotion had inspired an interest in plants. Dr. Joor was a correspondent of Vasey, Engelmann, Mohr, Chapman, and other botanists of this country. He was the first collector of several new southern plants. Though he described none himself, his herbarium notes show that some afterward described by others were recognized by him as new. Among others of which he was the first discoverer, *Panicum Joorii* Vasey, *Carex Joorii* Bailey, *Barbula Jooriana* Müller, and *Euphorbia corollata Joorii* Norton, bear his name.—J. B. S. NORTON, *Missouri Botanical Garden*.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF BOTANISTS IN ONE FAMILY.

It is seldom that the names of more than one generation of a family appear in connection with any one branch of scientific research. The history of science appears to show that genius or ability is not handed down, at least to any remarkable degree, in most families from one generation to another. As a general thing the pursuit of science is not lucrative enough to keep more than one generation from becoming paupers, and even where there is some wealth and ability the suc-